

Abortion markers: 4,400 daily

Harp's Crossing Baptist Church, Fayette, Ga., covered its grounds with 4,400 small white crosses to symbolize the number of abortions performed in America daily. Keith Turner, minister of education, said the church put up the display to make the church's position clear. An accompanying sign explains the number of crosses and references Psalm 139:1-16, (HMB photo by Paul Obregon)

which includes the passage, "You have formed my inward parts; you have covered me in my mother's womb." Turner said the display remained at his church for more than a month, but is now being passed among other churches for a similar use. Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, has had a similar display. (HMB photo by Paul Obregon)

FMB seeks Eastern European workers

By Mike Creswell

KLAUS, Austria (BP) — Southern Baptists plan to have almost 100 workers assigned to Eastern Europe within the next several years, a ten-fold increase.

New workers will be deployed as soon as personnel can be located, trained, and sent. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board plans 88 new, full-time workers to begin assignments in Eastern European countries, plus scores of short-term workers to help with construction, evangelism, teaching and other ministries.

The new plans were developed May 28-June 1 as Southern Baptist administrators met in Klaus, Austria, with the 10 Southern Baptist workers now assigned to Eastern Europe ministry. Intensive talks with Baptist union leaders in the region preceded the planning session.

Personnel requests likely will increase even more in coming months as discussions continue with leaders in several countries, said Keith Parker, the Southern Baptist Foreign Board's area director for Europe.

Plans call for career mission workers to begin ministry in several Eastern European countries as soon as possible. Three missionary couples are requested for Poland, six couples for Czechoslovakia and four additional couples for Hungary to join Errol and Mary Simmons, former Mississippians who are already there.

Some of the personnel requests already are being filled. Missionaries George and Veda Rae Lozuk, who formerly worked in Ecuador, are transferring to the Soviet Union to be Southern Baptists' first full-time workers there.

Tim Marza has been appointed to work with the European Baptist Federation in Romanian radio programming.

Former missionaries Tom and

Joyce Cleary are expected to be re-appointed in July for service in Poland, where they will work with the English-language teaching ministry of Wroclaw Baptist Church and do student evangelism. Two other couples also will be sought for Poland — one to work in Krakow and another to work as church starters in a location yet to be decided.

In Czechoslovakia, one career missionary couple would serve as "field specialists," helping to coordinate contacts between Baptists there and Southern Baptists, including many construction teams and short-term workers expected in coming years.

One such team has been requested for this year.

Another Southern Baptist couple

would be assigned to teach in a new seminary Czechoslovakian Baptists

are hoping to start soon. Two couples

would be assigned to work in general

evangelism in the Czech area and two

other couples would do similar work

in the southern Slovakian area.

Details on places of service for eight career couples being sought for Eastern Europe cannot be publicized now, Parker said. "This decision simply illustrates the continuing tensions and, in some cases, continuing dangers in some areas," he explained.

"We must realize that the dust from the fall of the Berlin Wall is still settling."

Another 10 couples will be requested to minister among specific groups in the region. Again, the board will not publicize the places or groups because of sensitivities involved, said Isam Ballenger, FMB vice president for mission work in the region, who participated in the planning session.

"There are still many uncertainties in Eastern Europe," Ballenger said. "The situation in Romania is unstable, Bulgaria is awaiting a key election

and Albania remains an unknown. But we are moving ahead in faith, trying to get people, programs and priorities in place to quickly take advantage of new opportunities to share the gospel.

"This bold, ten-fold increase in Southern Baptist presence here will require a similarly bold support level from Southern Baptists, both prayer support and financial support. May God lead us in that direction."

Some of people being sought will work for a year or more under the mission board's International Service Corps program. Fifteen people will be sought to teach English in Hungary for a year. Ten of these will need to be university professors qualified to teach English at a government teachers' college; five other qualified teachers will teach in public schools. Also for Hungary, seven journeymen will be sought to work for two-year terms.

A journeyman also is being sought for Czechoslovakia, to begin work as soon as possible.

Several other requests for special personnel include:

— a desktop publishing expert to teach Hungarian Baptists how to use new computer equipment provided by Southern Baptists to prepare evangelism materials and music for publication.

— two physicians, two nurses, and four agronomists, including specialists in animal husbandry and nutrition, for Romania.

— someone to work for six months in Hungary, filling in for the Simmonses, who begin a six-month furlough in September.

— construction crews for several locations in Czechoslovakia and Hungary, plus six revival teams to go to Hungary in May 1991.

Mike Creswell writes for FMB.

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One song, many voices

God's salvation plants a song in the hearts of His children. Sprouting from a new hope, a new life and a new purpose, the melody reveals His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

"Sing unto the Lord . . . for he hath done marvelous things" (Ps. 98:1).

CELEBRATE
LANGUAGE MISSIONS DAY
AUGUST 12, 1990

Top row: Charles Uche Oseji (Nigerian, FBC, College Park, Ga.), Eduardo Maestre (Colombian, FBC, College Park, Ga.), Oudone Thirakoun (Laotian, Red Oak Laotian Mission, College Park, Ga.), Dennis LeWallen (Welch, FBC, College Park, Ga.). Second row: Elaine MacDonald (Scottish, FBC, College Park, Ga.), Somperg Thirakoun (Laotian, Red Oak Laotian Mission, College Park, Ga.), Sinouane Korpanya (Laotian, Red Oak Laotian Mission, College Park, Ga.), Caroline Oseji (Nigerian, FBC, College Park, Ga.), Thuy Lu Thanh Thi (Vietnamese, Vietnamese Mission, College Park, Ga.). Third row: Haingza Lovely (Korean, S. Korean Mission, Riverdale, Ga.), Chandy Vong Kau (Cambodian, FBC, College Park, Ga.), Maria E. Maestre (Cuban, FBC, College Park, Ga.), Soka Hoover (Korean, S. Korean Mission, Riverdale, Ga.) HMB photo by Paul Obregon.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Pray for peace

In a day when there seems to be no threat to peaceful conditions between the United States and other nations, it may be a bit difficult to give much attention to a time of prayer for world peace. That should not be the case, however.

Prayer is not a good luck token to be carried around like a charm on a bracelet. It is communication with God, the creator, the sustainer, the designer, the redeemer. If our prayers, our communication with God, are employed only when there is trouble, we somehow compromise ourselves as we enter into that communication.

So prayer for world peace is very much a condition that should be a part of our lives.

And Sunday, Aug. 5, is a day of prayer for world peace, an emphasis sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. It is a time that should receive attention in churches all over the state and all over the nation.

We are in a period of peaceful conditions in most areas of the world, a time when barriers to peace are coming down and people all over the world are asserting themselves in their desires for freedom. We must remember, however, that one of the most devastating wars in the history of our nation, a war that divided our nation in almost every way and destroyed much within our shores as well as overseas on the battleground, has not been over for too many years. We were drawn into that one against

our will and better judgment, and it could happen again.

So while we are at peace with other nations, let's not forget to pray earnestly that we stay that way.

And let us not forget that there are areas in the world where all is not peaceful. Surely we can take time to remember our neighbor nations, though they are separated from us by thousands of miles, to petition the Lord to help them find ways of peace.

There is no war going on in the Philippines, but our student summer missionaries could not go there because of warlike conditions. That is a nation where there was rejoicing when a dictator was deposed, but anti-government forces are continuing to cause upheaval.

Another dictator was deposed in Nicaragua, but anti-government forces continue their harassment. Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, and other nations are in the midst of perilous times. Our missionaries have had to leave Liberia, and some under extremely hazardous conditions.

So all is not peaceful in our world. There is plenty to give us concern as we consider peace, and we need to pray that our own peaceful conditions will continue. Without the direction of the Lord, we have no guarantee that such will be the case.

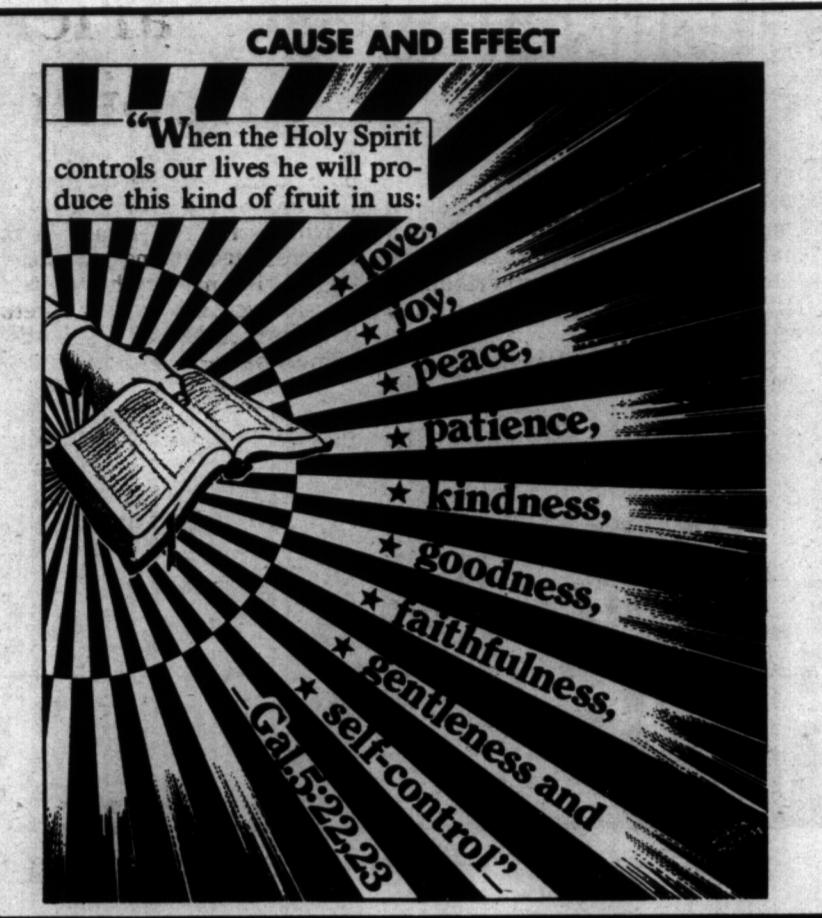
Threats to peace come when people who have not been free begin to seek freedom. That is happening all over the world. In many cases, the leaders of the nations that have denied

freedom have realized the consequences and are working with those seeking freedom to settle the issue peacefully. Let us pray that conditions of freedom will be working out peacefully. And let us pray that in nations where there has been resistance to those seeking freedom, they will be granted that freedom without resorting to violence.

There is no wholesale armed conflict, but there is plenty about which to be concerned.

Let's not neglect to pray on Sunday and every day for peace all over the world.

*We must not hope to be mowers,
And to gather the ripe gold ears,
Unless we have first been sowers
And watered the furrows with tears.*



Baptist beliefs . . . Inseparable love

By Herschel H. Hobbs

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? (Romans 8:35)

With Chapter 8, Paul concludes the first section of Romans. He has shown the awfulness of sin and the greatness of God's love for us as expressed through Christ and the Holy Spirit. So Paul closes Chapter 8 with a tribute to the inseparable love of God in

Christ Jesus (vss. 35-39).

Those verses read like the apostle's autobiography as he lists the hardships he has endured. "Tribulation" means to be in a tight place with seemingly no way out. "Nakedness" means poorly clad. Famine and peril are self-evident.

Yet in all these things Paul says we

are "more than conquerors" or super-conquerors through Christ who loves us. In Verses 38-39, he lists about everything bad that could happen to us. In case he missed something, he added "any other creature" or created thing. None of these things will "be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs. 39).

What a blessed assurance we have when we trust in the Lord as our Savior!

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

Guest opinion . . .

The urgency of Bold Mission Thrust

By Warren Hultgren

quate. Jesus did not say, "Do your best." We had to go with the ideal.

In presenting one section of our report to the Southern Baptist Convention, Carl Bates reflected this conviction when he said no individual or group "could do the SBC a greater service than to provide a challenge sufficient to command the expenditures of the life and substance of this convention to its very limit."

The report of the Missions Challenge Committee which became known as Bold Mission Thrust did not change the direction of Southern Baptists. Our challenge always has been missions. But the challenge we sought to set forth was how to do missions better and more fruitfully.

Our report included other recommendations which essentially represented strategies for achieving the overall goal. They were enthusiastically approved and included the following:

- Reaffirmed the place of the local church in missions.
- Requested the two mission boards to discover and use new patterns of mission work.
- Asked the two mission boards, the Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, and the Sunday School Board to work together to

secure a better understanding of the biblical base for missions and to discover and implement plans for a broader missions education.

- Called on churches to teach the biblical revelation of Christian stewardship and enlist every member in the stewardship of possessions.

- Requested the Stewardship Commission to step up its Cooperative Program promotion looking toward 50/50 division of funds between local church needs and mission needs and 50/50 division of Cooperative Program funds between state convention and Southern Baptist Convention needs.

- Asked the mission boards to develop long- and short-term programs for involvement of laypersons in mission work.

- Commended the boards in their efforts to develop improved objectives and strategies.

- Requested the six seminaries to work with the mission boards to strengthen training programs for missionaries.

- Requested the two mission boards to work with others to establish witness among foreigners in our land.

- Appealed for a calling out of the called.

As we embark upon the last decade of Bold Mission thrust, much has been

accomplished. Much remains to be done.

In 1976, Owen Cooper, a member of our committee, said, "The task is not beyond Southern Baptists, but it is beyond the reach of what we are doing now."

In 1990, Owen Cooper's words are still true. Southern Baptists have the organization, the finances, and the disciples to accomplish the challenge. We have the commission from Jesus Christ to be about the task. It will demand all that we have and are, setting aside differences, joining hands and hearts to work together every minute of every hour for the rest of this century and beyond.

Warren Hultgren, chairman Missions Challenge Committee, is pastor of First Church, Tulsa, Okla.

The proposal to the 1976 Southern Baptist Convention that Southern Baptists undertake the bold challenge of sharing the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000 was the result of two years of work and study by a committee authorized by messengers to the 1974 SBC meeting.

One of the most memorable experiences in my Christian life was to chair the Missions Challenge Committee. It was comprised of a cross-section of proven convention leadership. Our meetings were an excellent illustration of dedicated people cooperating constructively. We sought to give unified direction and encouragement to SBC boards and agencies. Their basic commitment to biblical commands kept us on target, productive, and in good spirit.

We were given four assignments:

- Study areas where the plans of the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board might be inter-related.

- Measure Southern Baptists' human and financial resources and potential for mission advance.

- Involve all appropriate agencies, state conventions, and interested individuals in developing a challenge to Southern Baptists to help meet world needs in the final quarter of this century.

- Call the convention to sacrificial commitment and to dedicate prayer for guidance and power in this compelling task.

We adopted the name Missions Challenge Committee and undertook to look at the pressing issues of missions education and mission strategy. Our final report given to convention messengers gathered in Norfolk, Va., included 15 recommendations, but the most important was the challenge in recommendation 1:

That the convention set as its primary missions challenge that every person in the world shall have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ in the next 25 years, and that in the presentation of this message, the biblical faith be magnified so that all men, women, and children can understand the claim Jesus Christ has on their lives.

One of the most critical questions that came up early in our discussions was the thought that this goal, presenting the gospel to every person in the world in the next 25 years, was impossible. However, we concluded that anything less than the Great Commission — "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" — would not have been ade-

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Stranded missionaries rescued in Philippines

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines (BP) — Five Southern Baptist mission workers were airlifted July 19 from a highway leading into Baguio City, Philippines, after a major earthquake left them stranded for almost three days.

The July 16 quake has killed up to 600 people, including one Philippine Baptist woman in Baguio City, according to reports. No details of the woman's death are yet available.

All Southern Baptist mission personnel in the Philippines are safe and uninjured, said Sam Waldron, administrator of the mission organization there. Waldron said it was a "miracle" no missionaries were hurt in the quake, measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale.

The rescued mission workers — missionaries Robert and Janet Nash and Julia (Judy) Yost and special assignments workers John and Helen Thomas — and at least one Philippine Baptist were traveling on Kennon Road into Baguio City when the tremor hit. John Thomas is a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

They were stranded with hundreds of other motorists when landslides made the road impassable. Relief helicopters reportedly dropped food and supplies to the travelers.

Mission officials arranged for a helicopter owned by the Summer Institute of Linguistics (Wycliffe Bible Translators) to evacuate the group from the highway into Baguio. They joined other mission workers in relief efforts from the campus of the Philip-

pine Baptist Theological Seminary in Baguio.

While some Americans in Baguio were reportedly being evacuated from the city by military helicopters, the mission workers wanted to return to help with quake relief. "That's their home, that's where their work is, that's where the people that they serve are. They were much aware that they could be of service there," said Waldron.

Yost, a missionary nurse from Naples, N.Y., and a seminary student were driving from Manila to Baguio. The others were returning from preaching services at Clark Air Base when the quake occurred, Waldron said.

Waldron said Thomas reported the Baptist seminary was being used as a rice distribution center for quake victims.

So far, \$10,000 in Baptist disaster relief funds has been sent to the Baguio and San Jose areas, Waldron said.

At the Baptist seminary in Baguio, two dormitories were badly damaged, the school's business manager told Waldron. A men's dormitory may have to be condemned because of damages and an international dorm was heavily damaged, he said.

Waldron urged Southern Baptists to pray for missionaries as they work with Philippine Baptists to provide relief. They want to minister to Filipinos "in a way that will really show to them that what we're doing comes from hearts of love simply because we are Christians . . .," he said.

Judge favors churches in land use case

By Mark Wingfield

BOSTON (BP) — Churches should not be required to provide off-street parking in the same manner as shopping centers and office buildings, a Massachusetts court ruled.

The decision was handed down June 28 by Justice George N. Hurd Jr. in Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The court case was the result of a three-year battle between the town of Needham, Mass., and three church groups who planned to share a new building. It would be the first new church constructed in the town in 30 years.

Greater Boston Baptist Association will have offices in the new facility where Mennonite and Messianic Jewish congregations will meet on Saturdays and Sundays.

The court also ruled that churches using moveable chairs rather than pews should not be subject to a different occupancy standard for zoning purposes. The building inspector in this case had required the churches to provide more parking spaces because the sanctuary would contain interlocking padded chairs rather than stationary pews.

Although this case will have clear implications in Massachusetts, it could also impact zoning in other parts of the country, said Larry Martin, director of missions for the Boston association.

Wingfield writes for HMB.



Dave and Pat Selvy

Selvys are assigned to America Samoa

Dave and Pat Selvy have been assigned as Mission Service Corps volunteers to serve in Pago Pago, American Samoa, for a year. Dave will be maintenance man for the Baptist Compound. Pat will serve as teacher's assistant for kindergarten through eighth grade. The school has about 200 students.

The Selvys have been serving as Mission Service Corps coordinators for Area 1 in Mississippi. Along with this volunteer ministry they have served as short-term volunteers in New Orleans, as well as California. When they return, the Selvys will continue as MSC coordinators for Area 1.

Wingfield writes for HMB.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Churches explore options for redirection of gifts

By Toby Druin

A number of Southern Baptist churches have begun exploring options for redirecting their Cooperative Program gifts to bypass the SBC Executive Committee.

The move away from the usual CP giving channels began after the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans and picked up after the more recent firing of two Baptist Press leaders. The move is mostly in the talking stages, and how many ultimately will follow through remains to be determined.

Those contemplating it say it seems to be the only way to "send a message" to current SBC leadership they don't like what has happened in the denomination.

Those opposed say it bears the seeds of disaster for the whole denomination and that ultimately the heaviest price will be paid by state conventions which now retain much of the Cooperative Program dollar for their own use.

But at least two state conventions are considering ways to accommodate their churches interested in redirecting the funds, and a national conference called by Daniel Vestal and Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention to consider alternate missions funding methods shows signs of attracting a far larger audience than first anticipated.

Convention officials, while recognizing local church autonomy, are encouraging Southern Baptists to not act impetuously and to stay with the Cooperative Program and the way they have channeled their money to missions, education, and other ministries since 1925.

But some churches already have made decisions and others are considering what can be done to express dissatisfaction with the direction of the SBC.

They came away from the New Orleans convention, they contend, with the impression that though the pre-convention talk had been about "inclusion" and "broadening the tent," the thrust of the comment from the podium in New Orleans was "if you don't like the direction the convention is taking, go somewhere else."

"We are being systematically shut out of appointments and the nominations process," one pastor said. "This is taxation without representation, and the time has come to find another way to fulfill our missions commitment. We are not going to continue to do missions the way we have been doing it all these years and not have a voice in it."

Actions already taken include complete elimination of the Southern Baptist Convention from a church's contribution, elimination of various SBC agencies, escrowing of Cooperative Program funds until a decision can be made about its disbursement and the naming of church committees to

study relationships with the SBC.

Trinity Church of San Antonio grabbed headlines immediately after the New Orleans convention when Pastor Buckner Fanning announced his church will pull its financial support from the SBC and give only the amount necessary (\$2,250 annually) to qualify to have 10 messengers. The church last year gave less than half of one percent of its undesignated offerings to the Cooperative Program, however, a total of \$19,440 out of undesignated receipts of \$4,005,621, according to its Uniform Church Letter.

Others have made similar announcements, however, that involve more offering plate dollars.

Wilshire Church in Dallas, where George Mason is pastor, gives 17 percent of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program. The portion that would have gone on to the SBC Executive Committee for Southern Baptist causes is being retained in a

reserve fund until its disbursement can be determined. By mid-July the amount had grown to some \$40,000.

Others in Texas are studying the matter. James Denison, pastor of First Church, Midland, which gave more than \$1 million to the Cooperative Program to lead all SBC churches last year, said people in his church would like to see them make some response; but any response will be studied carefully, and nothing will be done that would weaken support for state convention programs.

Denison said he will be a convenor for a session of the Vestal/Baptists Committed meeting in Atlanta, but that does not imply he is committed to any change. "I am going with an open mind," he said.

The Atlanta meeting, Aug. 23-25, was called by Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Church, Dunwoody, Ga., and the executive committee of Baptists

(Continued on page 4)

Argentine Baptists send missionaries to Spain

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BWA) — About 700 delegates from 250 churches gathered May 25 to 27 in Buenos Aires for the 75th Assembly of the Argentine Baptist Convention.

The assembly made major decisions concerning objectives for the 1990-2000 decade, elected new officers, sent a couple as new missionaries to Spain, and reissued the invitation to Baptists all over the world to come to Buenos Aires.

Buenos Aires is being considered by the Baptist World Alliance as the most convenient host for the 17th Baptist World Congress to be held in 1995 in Latin America.

Don Kammerdiener, vice president of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, was the guest speaker of the assembly.

Objectives set for the next decade seek to develop almost 300 new churches, and 100,000 new members, and have an annual rate of 12,000 baptisms. Figures are not too challenging if the rapid growth Argentine Baptists experienced during the 1980s is considered.

Among major officers elected were Jorge Ferrari as convention president, Carlos Caramutti as convention executive secretary, and Stanley D. Clark as president of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires.

The peak of the assembly was reached when Ignacio Loredo, former executive secretary of the convention, and his wife, Teresa, were dedicated to serve as the first official Argentine missionary couple to Spain. Several

other missionaries have gone from Argentina to Spain in the last five years, but the Loredos, now settled in the Benidorm, are the first couple officially sent by the Argentine Baptist Convention.

The sending of the Loredos to Spain is a joint venture of the Department of Evangelism and Missions of the Union of Baptists in Latin America, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and the Argentine Baptist Convention.

A major meeting of the assembly was held May 25, Independence Day for Argentines, when Raul Centeno, a Roman Catholic and minister of foreign relations and religion of the national government, gave a 15-minute speech. This is very unusual in a country where Baptists represent a small minority of 1 percent of the population.

The minister's speech was also unusual in its content. Referring gently to Santiago Canclini, former president of the Argentine Baptist Convention about 30 years ago, Centeno asked public forgiveness of the assembly for years of harassing and covered persecution.

"Now we work on a new ground of appreciation of each other's traditions," Centeno said, "which we hope will continue indefinitely in the years to come."

Centeno's speech was applauded by a crowd of around 2,000 which gathered every night at the auditorium of the International Baptist Seminary, where the meetings were held.

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Churches explore . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Committed to consider ways for Southern Baptists to consider ways to support world missions but to bypass the SBC Executive Committee in distribution of funds.

The meeting has been scheduled for the Atlanta Airport Sheraton Hotel, but Oeita Bottorff, project coordinator for Baptists Committed in Houston, and who is making arrangements for the Atlanta meeting, said last week consideration was being given to shifting the meeting place because of the greater-than-anticipated response.

Other Texas churches known to be studying the funds distribution issue include First Church, Plano; First, Calvary, Columbus Avenue, and Seventh and James churches in Waco; Park Cities in Dallas; First, Amarillo; and First, San Angelo. Most have named denominational study committees.

The Amarillo congregation contributed \$722,000 to the Cooperative Program last year to place second in the state and the Park Cities Church was third with \$531,000.

Pastor John Wood of First Church, Waco, preached on the issue in his morning worship service following the New Orleans convention and has had more than 500 requests for tapes of the message. His church is studying the support issue and is holding Cooperative Program funds in escrow until a decision is made.

At Park Cities Church, Dallas, a 23-member committee has been named to study the matter. However, Pastor James L. Pleitz told the Standard, "I am here to say we will stay with the convention; we are not going to leave. I just hope the day will come when the tent will truly be broadened and we see involvement of the 45 percent or so who have been left out for the last 11 years."

Texas Baptist Executive Director William M. Pinson Jr. said he had received "several" calls from pastors and churches studying ways of mission funding.

"I am encouraging people to give it a very careful look and not do anything impulsively," said Pinson, "and frankly I am encouraging them to stay with the Cooperative Program."

"However," he added, "we also recognize the autonomy of local churches and have always done with the money sent to us what the church has instructed us to do within agreed parameters."

"We do not serve as a channel to non-Baptist causes, institutions or agencies."

The 1991 budget of the Baptist General Convention of Texas will be recommended by the Administrative Committee to the Executive Board for consideration on Sept. 11 in Dallas. The recommendation reportedly will be that the budget remain the same as that of 1990 — \$63.5 million with 63.35 percent for Texas mission causes and 36.65 percent earmarked for SBC causes.

Churches in other states are also forming study committees and a few have cut off funds.

Fletcher Allen, editor of the Tennessee Baptist and Reflector, said he is aware of two churches that have cut off funds to the SBC and others have made inquiries about procedures to follow.

Allen noted that Executive Director D. L. Lowrie, who was unavailable for comment, had cautioned churches to think through any action and not to forget the Cooperative Program.

James Griffith, executive director

(Continued on page 10)



Gulfshore Assembly summer staff

Pictured are members of the 1990 summer staff of Gulfshore Assembly. These young people, representing 18 campuses from across Mississippi, assisted in providing the services necessary for the operation of Mississippi Baptists' conference facility. Summer attendance will be approximately 7,000 persons for the 20 conferences sponsored by the various departments of the convention board and approximately 1,500 for three CENTRIFUGE camps, according to Frank Simmons, assembly manager.

Front row: (left to right) **Bruce Salsman**, Fort Worth, Texas, houseparent; **Deby Salsman**, Fort Worth, Texas, houseparent; **Carren Arnette**, McDavid, Fla. WCC; **Renee Sappington**, Eupora, MC; **Nancy Greenhaw**, Amory, MSU; **LaNell Swindle**, Blue Mountain, NECC; **Brenda Avera**, Quitman, USM; **Sharon Temple**, Ellisville, Jones; **Amy Vest**, Hernando, MC; **Sandra Massey**, Greenville, MC; **Colleen McGee**, Meridian, USM; **Marty Lipscomb**, Foley Ala, MC; **Suzanne Brewer**, Gulfport, MSU; **Patricia Waltrip**, Lucedale, MGCCC; **Kim Pierce**, Decatur, ECCC;

Second row: **Melissa Taylor**, Long Beach, MGCCC; **Jana Ward**, Columbia, Jones; **Leanne Macinnis**, Biloxi, USM; **Tammy Adams**, Benton, MSU; **Lisa Parker**, Columbus, MUW; **Becka Tutor**, Tupelo, Union; **Angela Gordon**, Tupelo, MSU; **Angie**

Rone, Madison, MSU; **Tonya Williams**, Clinton, MC; **Beverly Stank**, Long Beach, Jones; **Kim Bridges**, Birmingham, Ala, Samford; **Cristy Gillespie**, Isola, Belhaven; **Kim Crook**, Jackson, USM; **Susanne Brown**, Jackson, MC; **Christy Swindall**, Sandersville, Jones; **Kim Gray**, Stringer, DSU;

Third row: **Richie McKay**, Lucedale, MGCCC; **Marty Robinson**, Florence, Hinds; **Brad Webb**, Bay Springs, USM; **Derek Johnson**, Batesville, NECC; **Ken Oglesbee**, Bay St. Louis, MSU; **Brent Richardson**, Kosciusko, MSU; **John Houston**, Bay Springs, MSU; **Tony Smith**, Weir, Ole Miss; **Blake Greenhaw**, Amory, Ole Miss; **Troy Hight**, Philadelphia, MSU; **William Friley**, Belzoni, MDCC; **Dane Lee**, Mendenhall, UMC; **Dan Loflin**, Yazoo City, Ole Miss; **Scott Savell**, Belzoni, MDCC; **Chad McMullin**, Amory, MSU; **Scott Davis**, Bay St. Louis, Ole Miss;

Fourth row: **Frank Simmons**, Long Beach, manager; **Mackie Wells**, Poplarville, PRC; **Todd Willis**, Aberdeen, MSU; **Bret Prather**, Canton, Clarke; and **Joe McLain**, Pascagoula, MGCCC.

Not pictured are **Darlene Dukes**, Magee, Jones; **Leslie Dumas**, Brandon, MC; and **Tom Slade**, Vancleave, MSU.

Pace defends Executive Committee action behind closed doors

By Tammi Ledbetter

"Had we opened the doors and gotten everybody in there it would have been impossible to ever have voted."

Citing the limited time allotted for the meeting, Pace said, "The logistics of getting it done made it almost essential to do it as we did."

Voting themselves into executive session was the only responsible and effective way to conduct any business of the nature of that under consideration, Pace said in his release.

The use of off-duty policemen was a necessary security measure, Pace noted, in light of an expectation that over 1,000 spectators might be on hand for the meeting. Pace said the estimate was drawn from several sources, all of which indicated attempts were being made to rally protesters to the scene.

"Upon learning that people were being encouraged to attend the meeting in large numbers," Pace said, "the officers of the Executive Committee determined that some security measures were necessary" and requested its legal counsel make such arrangements.

"Without advance knowledge of how large the crowd would be, the Executive Committee was required to anticipate numbers in excess of the legal building occupancy limits established by the local fire marshal."

Pace responded to questions about armed guards by pointing out that off-duty Nashville police officers are required by department policy to carry sidearms even while off duty. It was "not because of any request of the Executive Committee," Pace added.

Oral and written instructions to the

officers involved limiting access to the Executive Committee meeting area and preparation for evacuation procedures if warranted.

Once the Executive Committee adjourned, Pace and other members refused all comment. The explanatory statement issued by the Executive Committee was read without elaboration by Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice-president.

Pace said a portion of the statement had been formulated in advance, but "was not complete until the end of the meeting." Because of an agreement among the Executive Committee members that they be made aware of any statements issued to the media, Pace declined to address a news conference.

He described the proceedings of the closed door session as "respectful" with "no strident rhetoric."

"The demeanor of all participants was exemplary in the serious, thoughtful approach to a most difficult situation," Pace said.

"Our meeting was not a time to engage in slander, but it was a time when all Executive Committee members could freely and carefully weigh information in an effort to know the truth and to lay falsehood to rest. This could not have been done in a public forum."

He further stated, "No specific charges were leveled against either man, but the opinion of many was that irreconcilable differences did exist."

Accepting the fact that the journalists had been operating in ways consistent with their own consciences, to ask them, or anyone else, to do otherwise

would have been unconscionable.

"By the same token," Pace continued, "the majority of the Executive Committee members could not continue in good conscience to operate Baptist Press as it was. To do so was unconscionable to them."

Responding to concerns expressed by members of the Southern Baptist Press Association which represents state Baptist newspapers, Pace affirmed the group's desire to continue a partnership with Baptist Press. "The Committee recognizes the state papers are the principal, primary users and we're not opposed to the full, free flow of responsible, balanced, accurate information about the Baptist witness and ministries in our convention."

However, Pace noted, "Everyone obviously does not define responsible, balanced, and accurate in exactly the same way."

In his prepared statement, Pace said, "The issue is not only a free press, but also a fair press with news releases truthful, balanced and equitable."

He rejected charges that the Executive Committee intends to refashion Baptist Press into "a propaganda tool." Pace responded, "I'm committed to maintaining the integrity and professionalism of Baptist Press."

"The Committee intends to support the leadership of President Harold C. Bennett in his efforts to secure such personnel with whom to staff Baptist Press."

Ledbetter is associate editor of Indiana Baptist.

46 International Service Corps personnel assigned to jobs

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board, SBC, has named 46 people to work overseas through its International Service Corps program. Five have Mississippi connections.

ISC personnel will fill jobs in such fields as computer programming, church development, and teaching in seminaries, missionaries, from four months to two years.

Eleven married couples, 16 single women, and eight single men are included in the group attending orientation at the board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., July 25-Aug. 9.

Seventeen of the workers were selected for assignment with Cooperative Services International, that assists nations where missionaries do not work.

Mississippians

Julio Diaz: Most recently employed as director of the ethnic branch of New Orleans Seminary, located in Miami, Fla., sponsored by the Home Mission Board. Current address: P. O.

Box 356, Maben, MS 39750. Education: Mississippi College, Clinton, B.A. '50; Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, B.D. '53, Th.M. '64. Church: First, Maben. Hometown: Maben. Assigned as a general evangelist in Spain for one year.

Dorothy (Mrs. Julio) Diaz: Most recently employed in theological education at the ethnic branch of New Orleans Seminary, located in Miami, Fla., sponsored by the Home Mission Board. Current address: P. O. Box 356, Maben, MS 39750. Education: Texas Wesleyan College, Fort Worth, B.A. '52. She achieved registered nurse standing by certification through the International Red Cross in Argentina.

Church: First, Maben. Hometown: Maben. Assigned as a church and home outreach ministry worker in Spain for one year.

Bill Pigford: 5512 Plantation Oak Drive, Theodore, AL 36582. Education: Mississippi State University, B.S. '50, M.A. '65. Church: Wade, Pascagoula, Miss. Assigned to

Cooperative Services International as an English teacher in Asia for two years.

Tish (Mrs. Bill) Pigford: Current address: 5512 Plantation Oak Drive, Theodore, AL 36582. Education: Nagoya (Japan) College of Women, B.S. '50. Church: Wade, Pascagoula, Miss. Assigned to Cooperative Services International as an English teacher.

Angie Williams: Most recently employed as a kindergarten aide at Seminary South Assembly Day School, Fort Worth, Texas. Current address: 3401 Kettering Lane, Birmingham, AL 35243. Education: Mississippi State University, Starkville, B.A. '87. Church: Spain Mission of Arlington Heights, Fort Worth. Assigned to Cooperative Services International as an English teacher in Asia for two years.

First MasterLife held in equatorial Brazil

BELEM, Brazil — Sixty-five people recently attended the first MasterLife clinic offered in equatorial Brazil at the Baptist seminary in Belem. The clinic helped equip Brazilian Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries to lead MasterLife discipleship training. Baptist leaders and missionaries from across Brazil led the clinic. MasterLife is a Southern Baptist discipleship training program that has been translated into 48 languages.

Artist sues Wildmon

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — Artist and AIDS activist David Wojnarowicz has filed a federal lawsuit against Don Wildmon and the American Family Association. Wojnarowicz claims Wildmon took his work out of context in a mass mailing which criticized the National Endowment for the Arts.

The suit claims that the 178,000 piece mailing violated libel and copyright laws. The mailing contained portions of 14 homosexuals and religious images from photo collages by Wojnarowicz, which were shown at the University Galleries at Illinois State University with partial funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Rankin crusade registers

By Anne W. McWilliams

Professions of faith totalled 444 during the Metro Bailey Smith Crusade in Rankin County July 15-22, according to Allen Stephens, pastor of First Church, Richland, and chairman of the crusade's steering committee.

"The response has been great," said Bailey Smith, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a full-time evangelist. The eight-day crusade, held in the stadium at Northwest Rankin Attendance Center, was sponsored by 28 Baptist churches of Rankin County.

On the first night, 1,000 extra chairs had to be brought in. Other nights, in addition, some people brought lawn chairs from home. From 3,000 to 4,000 were usually present. On Friday night, when Smith preached on the topic, "It's Sex O'Clock in America," an estimated 3,500 sat in the rain for the two-hour service, some with umbrellas, some without.

For the final service on Sunday evening, July 22, a crowd of 5,000 gathered. The message that night was one Smith said was his favorite, and the delivery of which, he said, has resulted in 6,000 professions of faith. Called "Wheat or Tares?" it is based on the 13th chapter of Matthew.

In the Rankin County crusade, at least two pastors and two ministers of music made professions of faith, Smith said. One of the music ministers told him that before this decision, "I had given God my talents and abilities, but I had given myself to the devil."

Previously, Smith had held crusades in other Mississippi cities, including Columbia, Pascagoula, McComb, and Greenville. During the Pascagoula meeting, 1,000 professions of faith were recorded.

Before Smith entered evangelism,

Thursday, August 2, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Devotional

Living with unconfessed sin

By Benny Still

Living with unconfessed sin has caused more problems in today's society than perhaps any other factor known. Unconfessed sin in a person's life breeds a tormenting type of guilt that can ultimately cause the breakdown of one's physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

Those who complain about various physical ailments are referred to as hypochondriacs. They always have something wrong with them and are constantly seeking ways to tell others about their ills. This seeking out of others with whom they can share their ills and woes offers a type of psychological release for them — a chance to unload their problems.

On the other side of the coin — the person with unconfessed sin is aware that he/she has a problem — and in many cases knows exactly what the problem is, along with the cause and solution right at their disposal. These persons, rather than admitting the sin, seeking God's forgiveness, their own forgiveness, and reconciliation to themselves and the ones closest to them, choose to deny the sin, repress it further back into their minds, and then make life miserable for themselves and their families.

II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Behold, if any man/woman be in Christ, he/she is a new creature (creation), old things are passed away (erased), all things are become new." The scriptures further state that "he is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (the guilt of the previous sins) (I John 1:9).

God's forgiveness of our sin and his blotting it out of his memory has been beautifully expressed:

God has placed our sins in the sea of his forgetfulness and has placed a "POSTED! NO FISHING" sign on the shore so that no one can ever drag them out again to remembrance. — (R. G. Lee)

But how crafty is that old fox, the devil! He would attempt to fish without license in the remote recesses of our memory and plague us with doubt, frustration, and guilt over past sins that have already been forgiven by the wonderful grace of Jesus Christ. He would try to rob us of the joy of our salvation, as well as the security of that salvation. He would have us live in the uncertainty that someone is going to find an old sin skeleton and drag it out of the closet of our past. He would sow seeds of doubt and would try to bring destruction to our homes and families and try to cause those who are loving us the most to look like the villain in our mind's eye so that long and lasting relationships break up and fall apart.

It would do the suffering saint well to remember that in Jesus' hands lay the keys of sin, death, hell, and the grave (physical death). It would help us all — suffering or not suffering — to remember that Jesus is calling us all to daily "Come unto him, all of us that labor and are heavy laden and he will give us rest. Take his yoke upon us and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly in heart: and we will find rest unto our souls. For his yoke is easy and his burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Here are some suggestions for ridding ourselves of the problem of unconfessed sin:

- 1) Admit the sin to yourself and to God.
- 2) Ask his forgiveness — and receive it!
- 3) Forgive yourself.
- 4) Make restitution as much as possible to any other party involved.
- 5) Forget it!
- 6) Accept the victory.
- 7) Get on with your life!

David, the psalmist, was a man after God's own heart; but there was a time in his life when he really messed up his life by sinning. He then lived with the torment of unconfessed sin. One day, he set aside all his pride, ego, and prestige in the kingdom of Israel and begged God to: "Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Restore unto me the joy of my salvation" (Psalm 51:10 ff).

There is hope for the person plagued with the guilt of unconfessed sin: ASK! SEEK! KNOCK! He will answer. You will find. He will open the door to life — and show you how to live it more abundantly. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Still is minister of music and youth, Woodville Church, and Fort Adams Baptist Mission pastor.

444 professions of faith

he was pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., one of the largest churches in the SBC. During his pastorate there, Smith said, he baptized around 1,200 annually.

Rain-soaked after Friday night's sermon, he sought shelter from the downpour in a car while answering a question or two. As to Southern Baptists' biggest problem, he gave this opinion: "Not really knowing God. We need to get back to being more concerned with people than programs . . . We need to think of the church not as a culture center, but as a redemption center."

What do he think of the future of evangelism among Southern Baptists? "Our colleges and seminaries need to have a revival. When they do, they will be producing more effective preachers."

While he was president of the SBC,

1980-81, he was also president of the Oklahoma Baptist Convention and preached in at least 14 revival crusades. Also he received, he said, 100 more invitations to lead crusades.

As he searched for God's will about whether to stay in the pastorate or to go to full-time evangelism, he recalled, "I just saw I could not give the evangelism up. I wanted to take the integrity of the office of the SBC president and the integrity of being a pastor of a 20,000-member church into evangelism."

Referring to the informal style of worship in his crusades, including hand clapping along with the music, he said, "We Southern Baptists need to get loosened up."

His favorite scriptural promise, he pointed out, is I John 1:9 — "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

capsules

Atheist group demands removal of statue

KEY LARGO, Fla. (EP) — An underwater statue of Jesus is the latest point of contention between the U.S. government and American Atheists. The statue, known as "Christ of the Deep," is located in the National Marine Sanctuary in Key Largo, Fla., which is supervised by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Billy Graham invited to hold 1991 crusade in Scotland

EDINBURGH, Scotland (EP) — The Church of Scotland General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to support the invitation of evangelist Billy Graham for a crusade in Scotland, according to a news report from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Supreme Court strikes down notification law

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Supreme Court has struck down a Minnesota law requiring minors to notify both parents before obtaining an abortion. But the court also said such laws are constitutional if they include a judicial bypass provision.

The high court split 5-4 on both parts of its June 25 decision in *Hodgson v. Minnesota*. Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the majority — which also included Justices William J. Brennan Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Harry A. Blackmun and Sandra Day O'Connor — that held the Minnesota statute unconstitutional.

Requiring a pregnant minor to notify both parents is "not reasonably related to legitimate state interests," Stevens said.

For her, prayer has become a ministry

By Anne W. McWilliams

Her face, on one side, is paralyzed. She can neither raise her right eyebrow nor blink her right eyelid nor smile with that side of her mouth. Since that eye won't close, she must tape it shut at night when she sleeps. Vision in it is dim, but she can read with a magnifying glass. Her left eye is an artificial one. Most of her days she spends in a wheelchair, because her right leg is crippled.

"These disabilities are just a part of me now. I don't worry about them," she said. Instead, Edythe Montroy spends her time thinking of others and in turning her thoughts toward God. Prayer to her has become a ministry. "People write me and list their prayer requests," she said, "and I pray for them."

Also she prays for and with her fellow residents in the Long-Term Care wing of Bolivar County Hospital, where she lives in Room 242. (The hospital address is P. O. Box 1380, Cleveland, MS 38732).

April 28, 1961, formed a watershed in her life — before the wreck and after the wreck. The accident of that date happened in Nigeria, where she was a missionary. She and another missionary, Alma Rohm, both teachers at the Baptist college at Iwo, were on their way to Port Harcourt to a meeting of the Nigerian Baptist Convention. Having traveled all of one day and part of another day, they were on a steep hill, approaching a ferry to cross the Niger River. Suddenly the brakes gave way.

Alma, the driver, had to decide quickly whether to go into the river, to crash into a crowd of people, or to do something else. Weaving to avoid people, she ran off the road, into a small stone building by the water.

Alma had fractured ribs and an eye cut by her broken glasses. The three men in the back seat, students at the



Edythe Montroy

Baptist college, were hurt, but not badly. Edythe's face evidently had struck the glove compartment and its contents repeatedly, for her nose was gone and every bone in her face was broken. Flesh was torn from it and from her right leg. One eye was out of socket. Those who took her to the hospital thought she was completely blind. Since they didn't know what to do for her face, they only covered it with a cloth.

Other missionaries were traveling to the convention also. Among the first to arrive at the scene of the accident were Cecil and Marie Roberson, Mississippians. "I remember that Cecil was driving a new Chevrolet," said Edythe recently, "and that I bled

all over it." Someone sat in the back seat and held her head in their lap, turning her face so that she would not strangle on blood. Someone else held the main artery of her leg.

Nigerian policemen unloaded the ferry of other vehicles, for they felt a lighter load would go faster. On the other side of the river, a Shell helicopter flew the injured to a small British hospital at Port Harcourt.

After two weeks, Alma was moved to her hometown, Houston, Texas, accompanied by Ralph and Joyce Davis, missionaries (Mississippians). For three weeks, Edythe drifted in and out of consciousness before she was flown to Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, in the company of a missionary nurse, Alice Miller. When messengers to the Nigerian Baptist Convention heard of the wreck, they stopped the proceedings and prayed for Edythe and Alma.

Most of the rest of that year, Edythe was in Baptist Memorial Hospital. Then, because she needed so many operations, she moved into a small apartment near the hospital. "I got a liberal education in plastic surgery and orthopedics," she recalls. "I don't think anyone in her own strength could have endured all the operations and pain and near blindness. If I could have looked ahead and seen how much it would be, I would have thought I could not; but I did it, one operation at the time."

She added, "You are not always at your best when you are with medical personnel, I prayed, 'Lord, don't let me do anything that would be a discredit to Your name.'"

It was some time later that, during a cataract operation, her left eye hemorrhaged and had to be removed.

Edythe Montroy was born at Drew, Mississippi, on January 2, 1916, one of 10 children, six of whom lived to be

adults. She was baptized at age 9 at Drew Baptist Church.

In 1938, she was graduated from Delta State University; she taught high school English four years, before she entered New Orleans Seminary. Working in the registrar's office at the seminary, she read students' testimonies about their call to missions, and she realized that God was calling her, too. "I knew he was calling me to Africa. I never thought it would be to China, or anywhere else."

Her appointment came in April, 1946. Her assignment was to teach English at a Baptist school in Nigeria which trained men for teaching and for the pastorate.

After the wreck, the principal of the school kept her name on the faculty list for 10 years, hoping she'd be back. "It was wonderful, knowing I was wanted," she said. The Foreign Mission Board was also supportive of her desire to return, but she was never able to do so, except for one visit. Alma had gone back after two years.

In 1975, her Sunday School class at Bellevue Church, Memphis, gave her a trip to Africa, with her doctors' permission. There she spoke briefly at the Nigerian Baptist Convention. Women hugged and kissed her and said, "We have been praying for you for 14 years!" At the school where she had taught, the "old boys" alumni gave her a gold necklace and earrings, ebony earrings, and other gifts, including a handwoven African dress with wrap-around skirt and a turban. This she wore to a reception in her honor.

After the wreck, she had prayed, "Lord, use me." He used her in Memphis, teaching mission study books, and in many other ways through the churches.

He used her in Drew, where she moved to care for her older sister, as

she knew the Lord was directing her to do. At that time, she could walk with the aid of a stick, so she did the cooking and took care of the bills and grocery shopping. Her sister drove, because Edythe could not see well enough for that. Nearly blind and half crippled herself, she asked, "Lord, how am I going to do this?" But later, after her sister's death, she reported, "God provided the strength."

He used her in Clarksdale, when she moved to Flowers Manor, retirement apartments, and became a member of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale. He used her as a prayer partner, as a teacher of mission study, as a speaker to prayer meetings and to GAs and WMUs and others, and as an inspiration to many.

And he is using her in Cleveland, where she moved last December. As she gradually became more confined to a wheelchair, she again asked for God's direction, and came to feel that the long-term care facility at the Bolivar County Hospital would be the right place for her. When she moved there, she changed her church membership to First, Cleveland. Already the WMU of that church has held at least one meeting on the attractive patio of her new "home." Edythe watches the church services on television and sees her pastor, Stan Fornea, when he comes to the hospital to conduct services. As always, she continues to minister through prayer.

As for the wreck and the suffering that followed it, she said, "I don't know all the Lord's purpose in this, but I know he has a plan for me. I know he loved me before, and he's kept on loving me. I have been conscious of his presence through it all. I want to glorify him. I said to him, 'If this is what I could do to glorify you, Lord, this is the way I want it, and I would not have it any other way.'"

Gary Nash leaves Annuity Board

Gary S. Nash, general counsel for the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, has resigned to become a partner in the Dallas law firm of Akin, Grump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld. He will begin his new work Aug. 20.

Nash, 42, was employed in 1975 to form the legal services department for the Annuity Board. In his new role he will be retained as outside counsel for the Annuity Board and all its affiliates.

Paul W. Powell, president of the Annuity Board, said, "Gary Nash probably knows more about church pension law than anyone else in America."

Nash will head an employee benefits department for the Dallas office of Akin, Grump firm, which also has offices in Washington, D.C., Austin, Houston and San Antonio, Texas, and in Brussels, Belgium.

Julie L. Bloss, attorney, has been named acting director of the department pending choice of a replacement for Nash.

Swor is hospitalized

Chester E. Swor, nationally known lecturer from Jackson, is in Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson with a heart-related illness. Swor, who is 83, was first listed as being critical, but a hospital spokesman told the Baptist Record that his condition is now stable.

Faithfulness beyond Easter

Editor:

On Easter Sunday we experience joy by being within the House of God. However, it must not stop there, as the Lord advised us in his Holy Word not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is (Heb. 10:25) and to remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy (Ex. 20:8).

An overcrowded sanctuary on Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas proves that people will attend the Lord's House on these days only. The Lord God, whom we are to worship, is a jealous God and; we are to worship Him 52 times per year when it comes to attending church and not just the three major holidays. As you can see from the scriptures above, this isn't just an opinion but is biblical.

May we realize God is not to be forsaken anytime the entire year.

Mark Lofton

Tupelo

Children's Village speaker

Editor:

During the last week of June it was my privilege to be the guest speaker for Spiritual Awareness Days at the Baptist Children's Village in Jackson. Words could never express how much I enjoyed being with the staff and young people. In addition to hours of fun and fellowship, there were many life-changing decisions.

As an outsider, let me assure Mississippi Baptists this vital ministry is in good hands. Under the leadership of Ronnie Robinson, the staff and workers are leading these young men and women to become productive adults. I was literally amazed at the high self-esteem level in many of these young people. It is evident their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs are being met.

I highly recommend this ministry to be considered as a significant way to honor loved ones with memorial gifts. Your dollars will be well-spent

in molding the lives of young men and ladies for the glory of God.

Again, my thanks to the leadership of the Baptist Children's Village for another opportunity to be blessed through the lives and ministry of Mississippi Baptists.

Phil Waldrop
Trinity, Ala.

Statement on Roland Lopez

Editor:

There was considerable discussion during the SBC meeting in New Orleans over the eligibility of Dr. Roland Lopez to serve on the 1989-90 Committee on Nominations because of his church's record of giving to the Cooperative Program. I have spoken with Dr. Lopez and would like to share what I have learned.

Dr. Lopez was pastor of the Alliance Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, when he was elected as chairman of the committee. That church gave \$300 to the Cooperative Program for 1988-89. This made him eligible to serve. In November 1989 he became pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in McAllen, Texas. This church also had a history of giving to the Cooperative Program and related SBC causes. However, in 1988 the church's mission was in need of help. So they borrowed \$20,000 and gave it to the mission and also began paying

their mission pastor \$300 a month. To honor their commitment to the CP they borrowed additional money and gave a lump sum of \$3,141 to the Cooperative Program. Then, in January 1990 they gave \$452.23 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. At the same time, they were helping support four seminary students at the Southern Baptist Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio.

Instead of defending himself and his church and possibly creating disharmony, Dr. Lopez withdrew as a messenger to the New Orleans Convention and also withdrew the names of two fine men from his church who were to be nominated to serve on boards of our convention. I believe that the Emmanuel Baptist Church and Dr. Lopez have shown themselves to be in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention. They have had some tough decisions to make, but their support of our great Southern Baptist family is obvious.

Barrett Duke
Pastor, First Church,
Highlands Ranch, Colo.
Vice-chairman, 1989-90
Committee on Nominations

The BAPTIST RECORD gave partial explanation of this situation in its issue immediately after the convention. It would seem to be apparent that any effort to discredit Roland Lopez was misguided. — Editor



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



"We are counted in his sight"

My references to age have produced at least two poems from my readers this year. Though we don't have a "Scrapbook" any more, I can't resist offering these.

Once, when I commented, "I have seen sixty springtimes," Sarah Peugh of Aberdeen began a poem (based on Psalm 90:12) with that line and titled it "Sixscore Springtimes" — even says she is going to include it in her first book of poems. Here it is:

I've seen sixty springtimes,
Halcyons of my days;
Seasons changeable, hastening along,
I would they'd come always.

Teach me, OH LORD, from now on
To number every day,
Applying my heart to wisdom
Every step of the way.

Let me serve my fellow man
These next few years on earth;
And teach me, OH LORD, to number my days
To spend them for their worth.

I recognize the rest of springtimes
Will not be as many as could;
So grant me, LORD, to recognize how few
And spend them as I should.

When I brought up the question of being 21 again, Erma Jewel Crowe of Greenville sent me words of assurance (based on Philippians 3:21) in her poem "Twenty-one Forever":

There's a body in the closet
That has lingered quite a spell.
I'm told it rather looks a bit like me,
'Cept it's flawless, without wrinkles,
And it glistens so they tell;
I've wondered how this possibly could be.
I have heard of it in stories,
But I've never known those who
Have seen this body cloaked in mystery;
But awaiting in His closet
One's perfected just for you,
A gift from God for all eternity.

* * *

Ever since I visited Nepal, I have felt a deep concern for Christians there enduring persecution and/or imprisonment, because of sharing their faith or because of converting from Hinduism. I have prayed for them many times.

News of a change in government in Nepal, with announcement of a new freedom of religion there, and the king's promise to release all Christian

prisoners, thrilled me. I could see this as God's answer to my prayers and the prayers of many around the world.

In Nepal, I visited in the home of Nepali Christian writers, Solon and Rebecca.

A recent letter from Rebecca newly stirred my gratitude to God:

"Early this year we had a very tough time. Because of the political disturbance Nepal was in an awful situation. But God made everything calm and cooled down the situation. Now a new government has formed. One of the greatest things that happened is freedom of religion: no more persecution and hindrances for believers. God has opened the door for Nepal. People are coming to church freely, worshipping the Lord freely. We thank God for what he is doing and going to do in Nepal. God has given a new vision to our work. Literature is printed in quite a big amount."

"Thank God for his love, and that he created us in his own image. And we are counted in his sight."

Wilma Brewer had reached her goal of 40 years perfect attendance in WMU

Mrs. Wilma Ellzey Brewer, who died May 14 of this year, had in March completed a record of 40 years of perfect attendance in Woman's Missionary Union meetings at her church, West Ellisville.

In March of 1987, the WMU of her church sponsored a churchwide service in her honor, when she had not missed WMU in 37 years. She was given a plaque and a corsage during the morning service, with all her family members present — husband, Boyd; three sons, Latrelle of Moss Point; Glyn of Wade; and Larry of Ellisville; two granddaughters, Kim and Sherri; and four grandsons, Bryan, Barry, Jeffrey, and Brad.

In 1980, she received recognition at the state WMU convention meeting in Laurel, for 30 years of WMU service.

Her daughter-in-law for 26 years, Johnny Brewer, wife of Latrelle, said, "My first memories of Mrs. Brewer are as a Sunday School teacher to a group of lively 12-year-olds. She was a soft spoken lady. I never heard her raise her voice during the 32 years I knew her. She reared three sons, who will say the same. She never learned to drive, so she was dependent on others for transportation."

Born Aug. 27, 1909, in Sand Hill community, Jones County, oldest of nine children of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Ellzey, she married Boyd W. Brewer on Dec. 17, 1938. They became charter members of West Ellisville Church. Her husband helped construct the first buildings there and has been an active deacon for 47 years and men's Sunday School teacher for over 30 years. Their son, Latrelle, was the



Wilma Brewer

first person baptized in that church.

A Woman's Missionary Society began in 1949 by First Church, Ellisville, became an organization of West Ellisville Church when it was constituted on Oct. 1, 1950, with Mrs. Brewer as one of the charter members. (Mrs. Pauline Welch was the first WMS president there; Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson served in 1952, and has been re-elected five times within 38 years. She is mother of Janice Denton Lotz, wife of Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.)

"Mrs. Brewer's world seemed to revolve around the church and WMU,"

added Johnny Brewer. "She planned out-of-town visits and all her activities around her circle meetings. She would always catch a ride, walk, or get someone in the family to drive her. During the last two years of her life, her health began to fail, but she never failed to make her circle meetings.

"Her husband was wonderful to do anything necessary to see that she was able to make 40 years of perfect attendance. She went when she was hardly able to walk. He would attend with her to assist her. Her love for missions and the importance of WMU in her life kept her going many times."

Because of not being able to drive, she talked a lot on the phone. She would call her four brothers and four sisters, all of whom live in Jones County, every day to check on them. Also she called church family and friends to check on them, especially if they were not well.

Her love for missions was transferred to her children and grandchildren. Her oldest son, Latrelle, has served as a volunteer missionary every summer since 1979, building churches in the United States. Her grandson, Jeffrey Brewer, has also served three summers as a volunteer worker and for three months this summer as a baritone with Continental Singers, sharing God's love in the Western U.S., Canada, and Alaska.

Said her daughter-in-law, "Her family and friends want all Mississippi to know what a wonderful Christian, WMU supporter, wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, sister, and friend she was to all of us who knew and loved her."

Missouri board delays funding changes

JEFFERSON CITY, MO (BP) — The Missouri Baptist Convention executive board has delayed adopting future convention budget funding formulas for at least three months.

Meeting here in regular session July 9-10, the 49-member governing body

postponed until their Oct. 22 meeting action which would have established percentage allocations of contributions to the Cooperative Program through 1996.

A study committee had recommended that the percentages for state

and national allocations remain the same, with 35.75 percent to be sent to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee for distribution through the national Cooperative Program budget.

The current allocation plan ends in 1991.

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The console, which has five keyboards, is on a movable platform. The sanctuary was designed to highlight the organ's exposed copper piping.

Bish concert will introduce Jackson's fantastic organ

The new organ at First Church, Jackson, one of the 10 largest in the United States, will be dedicated Aug. 10 at 7 p.m.

Diane Bish, senior organist at the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and a concert organist who has performed worldwide, will be the organist for the dedication service. As a Fulbright scholar, she studied with Gustav Leonhardt at the Amsterdam conservatory. Her organ concerts have included performances in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, and St. Bavo Cathedral, Haarlem, Holland.

The organ, valued at around \$2 million, has 231 ranks, 12,877 pipes, 9 divisions, and console. The church's new sanctuary was designed to highlight the instrument's exposed copper piping, which stretches from second-floor sanctuary to fourth floor. Eight fourth floor chambers house most of the pipes, which range from a half-inch to 32 feet tall. Larry Black, minister of music, said openings had to be cut in the ceiling to lower some of the largest pipes into place.

Rich Land, the church's organ consultant, said the hand-crafted walnut and red oak control center of the organ is valued at \$100,000. The console, which has five keyboards, is on a movable platform.

Edgar Morrison, a Canadian Baptist, gave a substantial portion of the money for the organ, according to Zach Hederman Sr., building commit-

tee chairman, because "he wanted to donate the money to a church with a growing and progressive music program."

Dieter M. Geissler, German native who moved to Canada in 1956, created the organ, which is a combination of two organs, one previously used by the church and built by E. M. Skinner in 1939 and a Casavant organ built in 1929 and used in the concert hall of the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Geissler added hundreds of other pipes to this instrument, which he says is the largest he has ever built.

Geissler is president of Keates-Geissler Pipe Organs Ltd. of Toronto. He and his crew were in Jackson to fine-tune every pipe as the instrument was installed.

Most of the organ was constructed in Canada, though some pipes were built in Germany and shipped to the church.

The enlargement of the church's sanctuary to seat 3,250 brought about the need for the new organ. Black said the size of the room determined how big the organ needed to be. The church, with 8,000 members, currently has 1,200 people involved in its music program, with 370 choir members.

Guest organists will perform for the first few weeks until a replacement can be found for Becky Payne, previous organist, who is now associate minister of music for First Church, Richmond, Va.

Quiche church constituted

CHICUA II, Guatemala — The First Good News Church of Chicua II was recently constituted as the first Quiche Baptist congregation in Guatemala's Quiche region. The

Quiche people, who number more than 1.1 million, are Guatemala's largest Mayan Indian group. The church was begun in the home of lay pastor Juan Conoz,

Hinds-Madison is first to apply for recognition, family ministries

Hinds-Madison Association has become the first to make application for recognition for associational family ministry programming.

The Mississippi Baptist family ministry program, in cooperation with the Family Ministries Department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, has recently worked out a plan for recognition for associational family ministry programs.

There are 24 requirements toward this recognition of achievement, and the associations may make application for recognition simply on the

basis of filling out the application with the number of requirements that they have fulfilled.

Ron Mumbower, family ministry director, Hinds-Madison Association, and James Webster, church service director, have sent in the first of the applications. This application shows 21 of the 24 requirements completed.

J. Clark Hensley, family ministry contract consultant Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said he hopes that other associations will follow soon in making application for such recognition.

Pollard to speak to MC grads

Frank Pollard, pastor of the First Church of Jackson, will be the commencement speaker at Mississippi College's summer graduation scheduled for Friday, Aug. 10, at 2 p.m. in the A. E. Wood Coliseum on campus.

The summer commencement will bring to a close the 164th academic session at the nation's second oldest Baptist-supported educational institution. There are 180 candidates for degrees, including 75 undergraduates, 99 graduates, and six doctor of jurisprudence degrees from the School of Law. The degrees will be conferred by Lewis Nobles, president of the college, upon recommendation of the various deans and vice-presidents.



Rush

He can be contacted at his home in Pontotoc: Rt. 5, Box 197, Pontotoc, MS 38863. Phone (601) 489-5010.

Available

Thomas Earl Rush of Pontotoc is currently seeking a position as pastor, associate pastor, or minister of education. Rush recently served as pastor of Avera Church in Richton. He is a graduate of William Carey College (1948), and received his master of religious education from New Orleans Seminary. Rush is available for immediate service.



A Mother's Day service was held at North Winona Church, Winona, May 13. As a part in this service there were three families participating in baby dedication as pictured, left to right, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Mills with son, Murray Thomas; Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Land Jr. with daughter, Elizabeth Currie; and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Welch with daughter, Carly Szettie. Frank Bishop is pastor.



Strayhorn Church, Sarah, recently observed GA recognition with the theme, "Tell Them I Care." All the girls received badges, and one received a GA charm necklace. Pictured, left to right, first row: Crystal Brown, Keri Barksdale, Cindy Brown; second row: Amanda Hensley, Kimberly Rhodes, Gina Holliman, Vanessa Erwin, Lauren Barrett; third row: Juanita Brown and Mary Rhodes, GA directors. Jim Pinkerton is pastor of Strayhorn Church.



RAs and their parents of Bethany Church, Slat Spring (Calhoun) recently picked up trash along a two-mile stretch of Highway 9 under the Adopt-a-Highway program. Over 60 bags of trash were collected. Money received from recyclable products will be given to missions. David Macon and Eddie Helms are RA counselors; Bernette Fielder is pastor.



Highland Church, Laurel, recently honored first through third grade GAs with a mother-daughter tea and award ceremony. Those who received badges are pictured, left to right, first row: Angela Pridgen, Kristy Bigbie, Jill Gaskin; second row: Kristen Jernigan, Amy King, Erin Dry, and Melanie Wood. Not pictured are Liza Wall and Deidre Craig. Group leaders are Donna Walters and Nancy Jernigan.

Mississippi College will offer a "Back to School Workshop for Adults," Tuesday, Aug. 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room of the B. C. Rogers Student Center on campus. It will be about admission requirements, financial aid, evening programs, and other items of interest. It's free. For preregistration, call 925-3263.

Just for the Record

North McComb Church, McComb, will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Aug. 5. Sunday School begins at 10:30 a.m. O. C. Ladnier, a former pastor, will be guest speaker. Following the morning service, there will be dinner on the grounds. After lunch, special music will be provided by the Walsh Family of Liberty. Tommy Walsh, a former minister of music at North McComb Church, sings with this group.

Washington Church, Washington (Adams) will host gospel composer W. Elmo Mercer in a concert on Sunday, August 5 at 7:30 p.m. Mercer, of Nashville, has been called by the Zondervan Corporation "one of America's favorite gospel songwriters." The composer of 1600 gospel songs and arranger of thousands more will lead a mini-clinic for the church choir Saturday night in preparation for the special music of the 11 a.m. worship on Sunday.

Merger currently serves as pianist for the Park Avenue Church in Nashville, and will be the guest pianist in Sunday services at Washington Church. Norris Curry is pastor.

Hurricane Church in Attala County will have Vacation Bible School, July 30-Aug. 3, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Commencement will be held Sunday at 7 p.m. Ricky Summers is pastor.

Concord Church, Ackerman, will dedicate the baptistry and Sunday School rooms, Aug. 12, at 11 a.m. The noon meal will be served in fellowship hall. Ralph Cain is pastor.

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Names in the news

Popular Springs Drive Church in Meridian ordained Dennis E. Salley, Jr. as minister of the gospel June 24. Salley recently graduated from the Southwestern Seminary with the master of divinity degree. He is currently serving as pastor of Living Water Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

Barbara Ann Searcy has been awarded an academic scholarship to Liberty University of Lynchburg, Va. toward a degree in psychology and will begin classes in the fall. She has also attended Atlanta Christian College, East Point, Ga. majoring in music and Christian education.

Mrs. Searcy is the wife of John L. Searcy, pastor of Cary Church in Sharkey/Issaquena Association.

She is available for conferences, seminars, and special programs. For more information write P. O. Box 43, Rolling Fork, MS 39159 or call 1-800-476-4307.

Chad Yarborough was licensed to the gospel ministry by Mt. Pleasant Church, Lincoln Association, May 13.

He was presented his license by his father, Anthony Yarborough, pastor of Mt. Pleasant Church. A junior at Mississippi College this fall, he is available for supply or interim work and may be contacted at 734-6413.



Yarborough

Hebron plans marriage seminar

Hebron Church, Highway 8E, Grenada, has scheduled a marriage enrichment seminar for Aug. 3-5.

Friday night's program will include a covered dish supper at 6:30 p.m. and "Blueprint for a Christian Home," 7:15 p.m.

Saturday evening's program will begin at 5 with "How Memories Affect Your Family," and, after a 6:30 snack time, will continue with "Being Good Listeners."

Sunday morning, Aug. 5, all adults present will meet together at 9:45 for the Sunday School hour and hear a discussion of the topic, "Coping with Marital Conflict." The Sunday morning message at 11 will be on the subject, "Hospitality in the House."

The seminar will be led by Buddy Wagner of Mississippi College. Steve Huber is pastor.

A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it.

Revival dates

Pleasant Ridge Church, Dumas (Union County): Aug. 5-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekdays, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mike Smith, Zion Hill Church, Blue Springs, evangelist; John Hickey, Pleasant Hill Church, New Albany, music; David Blackwell, pastor.

Bellevue Church, Thaxton (Pontotoc): August 6-10; services 7 p.m. nightly; Jimmy Grubbs of New Hope, evangelist; Lee Graham, pastor.

Lake Harbor (Rankin) July 29-Aug. 9; regular Sunday services; weeknight services at 7:30 p.m.; R. C. Branch, evangelist from Louisiana, evangelist; Mike Smith, Jackson, music director; Roy Clark, pastor.

Bala Chitto Church, Magnolia (Pike): Aug. 5-8; times of services, Sunday, 2:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Roc Collins, Berwick Church, Liberty, evangelist; Mike Thompson, Bala Chitto Church, music; David Wayne Bailey, pastor.

Pine Grove Church (Simpson): Aug. 5-10; Sunday 11 a.m. and dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Foy Killingsworth, pastor; Weathersby Church, evangelist; Blake Scafidel, minister of music, Cleary Church, (Rankin), music; Victor Johnson, pastor.

Pleasant Ridge Church, Sturgis (Oktibbeha): Aug. 5-10; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Ron Kirkland, evangelist; Archie Chesser, music; Larry Haggard, pastor.

Macedonia Church, Petal: August 5-9; 7:30 p.m. nightly; John Merck of Lucedale, evangelist; Boyd Tweedy, music leader; Jerry Doggett, pastor.

Antioch Church, Antioch (Clarke): August 5-10; 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; Sunday service 11 a.m. with lunch served; afternoon service 1:30 p.m.; no evening service Sunday; Leonard Walters, of Buckatunna Church, evangelist; Vondelle Avera, music; Eugene Moffett, pastor.

Branch Church, Morton: August 5-8; Sunday 11 a.m. services; dinner at the church, 1:15 p.m.; no night services; Mon.-Wed. services 7:30 p.m.; Ken Harrison, pastor East Side Church in Magee, evangelist; Tim Robertson, pastor, Line Creek Church, Morton, music leader; James Watts, pastor.

Holcomb Church (Grenada): Aug. 5-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thur., 10:30 a.m. Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Toby Everett, Walker Memorial Church, Franklin, Tenn., evangelist; Dale Gravatt, pastor.

Staff changes

First Church, Gautier (Jackson County): has called Hugh Smith as minister of education. The Yazoo City native received his undergraduate education at Mississippi College, and his master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. Smith formerly served as minister of education and youth at North Greenwood Church.

Leonard D. Howell has resigned as pastor of Evergreen Church, Winston Association, where he has been pastor for seven and one-half years. Howell has moved to Shady Grove Church, Pontotoc Association.

Liberty Church, Liberty, has called J. B. "Buddy" McElroy as minister of music and youth, effective July 1. The Lauderdale County native received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. McElroy previously served at Harmony Church in Laurel.



Kimbrough
Orleans Seminary.

Ingalls Avenue Church, Pascagoula, has called Daniel L. Henderson as pastor, effective July 22. A native of Laurel, he received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was serving in O Jung Don, Taejon, South Korea with the Foreign Mission Board.

Tylertown Church, Walthall Association, has recently called Wayne Kimbrough as pastor. Kimbrough resigned his position at Mount Zion Church in Brookhaven to accept the pastorate in Tylertown. A native of Jackson, he is a graduate of Provine High, Hinds Junior College, Mississippi College, and New

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Mississippi Baptist activities

Aug. 5 Day of Prayer for World Peace (CAC Emphasis)
Aug. 6 WMU Leadership Training; Camp Garaywa; 6:30-9:00 pm (WMU)
Aug. 6-10 Staff Week Clean-up; Central Hills Retreat (BRO)
Aug. 7 WMU Leadership Training; Camp Garaywa; 9:30 am-2:30 pm and 6:30 pm-9 pm (WMU)
Aug. 7 Area Church Weekday Education Clinic; FBC, Starkville; 8:30 am-4 pm (CAPM)
Aug. 8 WMU Leadership Training; Camp Garaywa; 9:30 am-2:30 pm (WMU)
Aug. 9 WMU Leadership Training; Camp Garaywa; 9:30 am-2:30 pm (WMU)
Aug. 10 WMU Leadership Training; Camp Garaywa; 9:30 am-2:30 pm (WMU)
Aug. 11 WMU Leadership Training; Camp Garaywa; 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (WMU)

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Churches explore options

(Continued from page 4) of the Georgia Baptist Convention, said he had received surprisingly few calls about the issue, but noted churches interested may be waiting the outcome of the Atlanta meeting.

Griffith noted also that any church that places restrictions on its Cooperative Program gifts will see those gifts received as designated gifts, not Cooperative Program gifts.

"I am hoping Georgia Baptists will stay with the system," he said. "We are not formulating any plans" to provide an alternative system, he said, but added it could be done by the budget committee or suggested from the floor of the convention.

Two state conventions are considering options in their budgets to permit churches to have a choice in how their funds are distributed. The Virginia Baptist budget committee was to consider a plan to present to their annual meeting in October that would provide (1) a method where people could support the Cooperative Program in the traditional way, letting the SBC Executive Committee set distribution guidelines for the SBC portion; and (2) an option where the amount going to SBC entities would be determined by the budget committee.

Virginia already has in place, however, a system whereby churches can delete up to three areas of support, including the Southern Baptist Convention, and still have their gifts considered as Cooperative Program gifts in Virginia.

In North Carolina, Executive Director Roy J. Smith is proposing that the budget committee provide opportunity for churches to contribute for missions support but to have a wider range of options. A total of 31 churches in North Carolina now exclude the

Carey appoints missions prof

Larry Braidfoot, academic vice president, William Carey College, announced that Daniel Browning has joined William Carey College as assistant professor of religion. Browning will teach in the division of missions and biblical studies.

Browning is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary, where he earned master of divinity and the doctor of philosophy degrees. His major field was biblical backgrounds. Prior to entering seminary, Browning earned a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering. He has been teaching at Tarrant County Junior College in Fort Worth.

First, Eupora, to celebrate centennial

First Church of Eupora will celebrate its 100th anniversary of the founding of the church on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 4 and 5.

First Church of Eupora was established in 1890 with seven charter members by J. T. Christian, secretary of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The church now has a total membership of 897, and a budget of over \$285,000 with 18 percent given to missions causes of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program. William S. Stewart has served as pastor for 26 years.

The celebration will begin with an old fashioned parade in Eupora at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Following the parade there will be a reception in fellowship hall. On Sunday, the day will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. followed by the centennial worship service at 10:50 a.m. Dinner on the grounds will be served.

Southern Baptist Convention entirely from their gifts, and the number is increasing. Last year a total of \$557,810 was given with the stipulation that none go to the SBC and at the current rate, a Baptist state convention spokesman said, the rate will be \$800,000 to \$1 million this year. On the opposite side of the coin, \$34,345 was given in 1989 with the stipulation that none go to state convention programs.

John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, said he had received only two phone calls about the matter. "My feeling is that a church is going to do what a church has to do," he said. "I respect the integrity of the church and believe they will do what in good conscience they have to do."

The moves to escrow funds or to bypass the SBC was soundly criticized by both Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, and James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Church, Euless. Patterson has been one of the architects of the fundamental-conservative effort over the last dozen years; Draper was president of the SBC in 1982-83.

Both noted that in past years fundamental-conservatives had been excoriated for so-called negative designation when they said they could not support various parts of SBC or state convention efforts or teaching in seminaries which they considered "unconscionable."

"I do find it a little bit strange that what we often construed as immoral and uncooperative when we talked about designating funds is all of a sudden perfectly okay," said Patterson. "That seems to me to be at best inconsistent and at worst making up the rules as you go along."

"The big loser in this if it actually gets started will be the state conventions," he said, "because in order to offset losses to the national convention budget, conservative churches would be forced to give around the state conventions."

"I don't think anyone wants to do that, but they could be forced to do it."

Draper, said the proposals amounted to "gross hypocrisy," in his opinion, noting criticism leveled at fundamental-conservatives for practicing negative designation in the past.

He noted that if the idea catches on the bookkeeping problem alone for the local church and the state and national conventions will be mind-boggling.

"The Cooperative Program will be effectively destroyed," he said.

Draper, whose church gave \$369,447 in support of the Cooperative Program in 1989, urged moderate-conservatives to "have the same kind of patience" fundamental-conservatives had in the past who kept supporting the CP. He urged them to wait on the appointments of new SBC President Morris Chapman to see if he does the "enlarging of the tent" promised before the convention in New Orleans.

Chapman, in a June 26 statement, urged Southern Baptists to "enhance our cooperative spirit through substantial participation in the Cooperative Program. We must be certain that we do not damage our world mission effort to present the claims of Christ to the 5 billion people around the world."

Bypassing national agencies could lead churches to bypass state conventions, he cautioned.

"I do not think this generation of Southern Baptists wants to engage in unraveling the method of funding which God has so greatly honored," he said.

Toby Druin is associate editor of the *Baptist Standard of Texas*.

Homecomings

Corinth Church, Heidelberg: Aug. 5; Dennie Ray Smith, associate pastor, First Church, Pascagoula, guest speaker; service, regular time with Sunday School at 10 and worship service at 11 a.m., followed with dinner on the ground; afternoon services, 1:30, a singing featuring Aubrey Green and The Gavin Boys.

First Church, Ovett: homecoming; Aug. 5; former pastor, Mike Aultman, guest speaker; services at 11 a.m., followed by a covered-dish dinner; gospel group, The Covenant Quartet, to sing at 1:30; all friends and former members are invited to attend; Edd Hoilimon, interim pastor.

McLaurin Church, Hattiesburg: Aug. 5; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; Joe Ratcliff, guest speaker.

Union West Church, Oxford (Lafayette): August 5; Sunday School, 9:45, morning worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in the fellowship hall immediately following morning services; afternoon singing, 1:15 p.m.; The Gospelaires of Pontotoc, guest singers; Mark Frees of Sledge, guest speaker; Terry Carver, pastor.

Big Springs Church, Brookhaven: August 5; Marion Ball, guest speaker; Gaston Jones, pastor; phone 833-3013 for more information.

Revival dates

Rock Bluff Church, Morton: Aug. 5-10; Sunday, homecoming, 10:45 a.m., Tim Canterbury, speaker; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m., Harry Gipson, evangelist; Billy Rowzee, pastor.

First Church, Ridgeland (Hinds-Madison): August 5; 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; afternoon program following dinner; Alvin Doyle, guest speaker; Ed Griffin, pastor.

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About people . . . not politics.

Await his coming — with anticipation

By Jim Smith

2 Peter 3:1-14; Jude 17-23

What were you doing an hour before you began to read this article? How about three hours or six hours ago? Were you doing something that would glorify God? Was it something that you would want your Lord and Saviour to find you doing when he returns?

Peter tells us that people will grow weary of waiting upon the Lord's return. Some will doubt his returning. Some will even renounce the faith and return to their sinful ways. Many of

you have heard evangelists over the years predict the second coming of Jesus and have seen their predictions be disproved. We look at the writings of Paul and other apostles and we see the expectancy of a quick return. We read books by charlatans that even give the hour,



Smith

LIFE AND WORK

day, and year of his return; and they have been proven wrong. Denominations and sects have actually been formed upon the basis of some of these predictions. So, it is easy to let this history dim our expectancy of his return. The world further takes these failed attempts at prediction (Jesus said no one knows, not even himself) and uses them for occasion to scoff at God and his followers.

Peter would remind us that it is essential for the Christian to be about the Lord's work. We must be faithful. We must be willing to be found by the Lord in any activity we undertake (it should be one that is uplifting and glorifying to God), should he come at that time or should we be unexpectedly called home. It is so easy to slip into sin, to say that no one will know, to deceive ourselves into thinking that we can do a little (sin); and then we will have time to ask God's forgiveness. We truly deceive ourselves;

first, because we have already committed the sin when we conceive it in our minds before it is ever carried out; second, because God already knows our thoughts and our deeds; and third, just as the rich farmer, we are not guaranteed tomorrow. We must always be on guard against sin and Satan. We must avoid any activity that would bring dishonor upon our Lord, our church or ourselves as Christians.

We are assured that God is not negligent, he has not forgotten to send Jesus back to fulfill his word. Jesus will return on God's own time table which is not the same as yours or mine. Just as God's ways are not man's ways, time, does not have the same relevance to God as it has to us. We are bound by time; but as with everything else in creation, God is Lord and Master of time be it a moment, an hour, a day or a thousand years. He is God!

God is long suffering, not willing that any should perish, and Jesus is ever at the Father's right hand making intercession for us as does the Holy Spirit. I can see in my mind's eye,

Jesus seated next to the Father, leaning over, ever pleading for just a little more time that the harvest of lost souls may be completed. We must remember our task is not to question or grumble; but it is to be about the harvest, laboring in the fields while it is yet day. We must always have Paul's desire to be with Jesus but ever working to be found worthy should the Lord come or call us home.

We must not be deceived or slack concerning two truths: one, the Lord will return in his own time and his own way, and his judgment will be swift and terrible against those living in sin at his coming; two, if he does not return during your lifetime or mine, we are appointed once to die and we will die, maybe after a long life or maybe suddenly and tragically, but we will go to be with the Lord. Either way I am sure of one thing, I want to be about the Lord's work, doing and saying what will bring him glory when my time comes. How about you? Live for him. This may be our last tomorrow.

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Feel helpless? God is

By Bob Rogers
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

A peasant stands in line to buy food in Russia, a homeless person sleeps on the sidewalk in New Orleans, a suburban housewife drowns her loneliness in alcohol, and a man lies awake worrying about how to pay for his credit cards and rising medical insurance. Millions of people around the world feel trapped. They feel like life is an endless roller-coaster, with no way to get off. Proverbs 3:1-15 reminds us that when we feel helpless to face life, God is in control.

The poetic words of Proverbs 3:1-8 are the most quoted in Ecclesiastes; popular songs have even been written about there being "a time to every purpose under heaven" (vs. 1). However, beyond the mere beauty of these words is a pessimistic message: life is an endless cycle of events which are out of our hands. "A time to be born, and a time to

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die" begins verse 2, and so on it goes for seven verses.

Verse 5 says, "A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing." Some have taken "cast away stones" as a Hebrew metaphor for the sexual act in marriage, especially since the last part of the verse refers to embracing. For this reason, the Good News Bible translates "a time for making love." However, scattering and gathering stones probably just refers to tearing down old structures and building new ones.

Verse 7 mentions "a time to rend, and a time to sew." Ancient mourners tore their clothes as a sign of sorrow (see 2 Samuel 1:11-12); but after the time for mourning was over, they could mend their clothes. Although there is a time to kill (vs. 3), hate, and make war (vs. 8), this should not be taken as an excuse for such behavior. The preacher is merely reporting the

events of life.

The preacher explains his poem in verses 9-15:

1. We cannot find ultimate satisfaction in our work (vss. 9-10).

2. Although we cannot understand why things happen as they do, we can know that God is in control (vs. 11). "He hath made everything beautiful in his time" is made clear in the Good News Bible: "He has set the right time for everything." The King James Version continues by saying "he hath set the world in their heart." "The world" is better translated "eternity," meaning God has given us a desire for eternal life. Yet "no man can find out the work that God maketh" because only God knows what the future holds.

3. Since we cannot understand God's purposes, we should be content to "do good" and enjoy life as "the gift of God" (vss. 12-13).

4. We cannot change God's purposes, so we should have "fear" (reverence) for God (vs. 14).

5. God is in control of history (vs. 15). "God requireth that which is past" (KJV) is translated in the New English Bible: "God sum-

mons each event back in its turn." In other words, God oversees the cycle of events mentioned in verses 2-8.

Despite the preacher's pessimism about an endless cycle of history, he maintains a faith in God's purpose and calls us to be optimistic, enjoying life as a gift from God whom we worship and obey. As New Testament believers, we know that history is not an endless cycle; but rather it is a line heading straight for an end. "And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Hebrews 9:27-28).

Questions to consider:

1. What hurts that we face can be healed by God through the passage of time?

2. Is it time for a change in your life?

3. In what ways do you or someone you know feel trapped by circumstances? Read Luke 4:18-19. How can the gospel of Jesus Christ set us free?

Roberts is pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster. Rogers

Spiritual leadership in changing circumstances

By Lannie Wilbourn

1 Samuel 8:17-22; 9:15-17; 10:1, 17-19a

"When Samuel grew old . . ." (8:1 NIV) are the words which set the stage for change in Israel. Age changes things. In Samuel's case, it was his ability to lead the nation. Either he did not recognize the bad character of his sons or there was no one else fit to lead the nation.

"There is nothing permanent except change," said Greek philosopher Heraclitus. Change is unsettling to most people. Washington Irving said,

"There is a certain relief in change, even though it be from bad to worse; as I have found in traveling in a stagecoach, it is often a comfort to shift one's position and be bruised in a new place." Israel's leaders wanted a king, "such as all the other nations have" (8:4 NIV). They were about to be bruised in a new place. The solution to any problem a Christian has is never to become more like a pagan.

Samuel warned the people of the high price they would pay for a king (8:11-17). He accurately foretold of a military draft, taxation (heretofore unknown in Israel), conscription of sons and daughters for domestic service, and confiscation of land. The people would become like slaves to their king. But the people "refused to listen to Samuel" (8:19 NIV). The bases of their request were selfish: 1. We want to be like the nations; 2. We want a king to govern us, and to take responsibility; 3. We want someone else to fight our battles. Samuel was angry with the request and felt rejected. The Lord told



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Samuel, "It is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king" (8:7b NIV). It was the age old struggle of man against God that was taking place. Personal responsibility was being passed to someone else. Moses experienced the same thing. So did Jesus when the people rejected him and shouted, "We have no king."

Though the people rejected God as their king, he chose their next three kings. God revealed his choice to Samuel. Saul was the tall, handsome son of the wealthy and powerful Benjamin, Kish. Saul was called, "an impressive young man without equal" (9:2 NIV). God selected him through Samuel who was, in the eyes of the people, too old to govern but not too old to hear the voice of God, ". . . the Lord had revealed" (9:15 NIV). This could literally be translated as "uncovering of his ear" which I find to be an interesting description of God's communication. Many of our ears are covered to the truth of God's Word, and the Holy Spirit must uncover them so we can hear. God's word to Samuel is that Saul will be the "prince" or "leader" of "my people Israel." The word "king" is deliberately avoided here because God alone is king. The nation remains his people in spite of their rejection of him. Saul will "govern my people," the Lord said to Samuel. To "govern" is to "to keep within bounds."

There is deep encouragement in 9:16 for all of us. God heard the cries of help from his people. It was the same in Egypt when God sent Moses to rescue the Hebrews from slavery. Samuel learned that God's compassion exceeded the people's corruption.

Under instructions from God, Samuel first anointed Saul privately and then in a public ceremony at Mizpah. This was the place where revival had taken place earlier. God provided a mighty deliverance from the Philistines at Mizpah (7:10) and was providing a leader in Saul to do so again. The circumstances were changing but the real deliverer was not.

Saul was hesitant to assume his role as leader even though three signs had been given (10:2-7). The result of the Spirit of the Lord coming upon Saul was, "you will be changed into a different person" (10:6b NIV).

E. J. Young provides insight, "It would, however, be a change of degree rather than of kind. Saul was to become a different man, in that he would now have the ability to act as a king would act. He would have a wider vision of the duties that were required of a king, and he would receive the capacity to carry out those duties." (My Servants the Prophets, p. 87). God was providing for the needs of his people during the many changes in the circumstances of their lives. He still does!

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Southwestern graduates three from state

FORT WORTH, Texas — Reaching all kinds of people for Christ, anywhere, must be the focus of ministry, the executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention told summer graduates at Southwestern Seminary during commencement ceremonies July 13 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Southwestern Seminary President Russell Dilday conferred 141 degrees during the ceremonies.

The summer class included three from Mississippi.

John Sullivan, a Southwestern graduate and executive director-treasurer for the Florida Convention, told graduates they must see that "missions is not crossing the sea, it's

seeing the cross" in order to take the gospel to everyone.

The three Mississippi graduates were Randall Hall, minister of music and youth, Ridgecrest Church, Madison, son of Mrs. Dan Hall of Clinton and the late Dan Hall, who was director of the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, master of music; Mike Self, home church, First Church, Boyle, son of Lamar and Bobby Self of Yazoo City, master of arts in religious education; and Thomas Lister, son of Lila Varnado and the late Richard Lister of Belzoni, home church, First, Greenville, master of arts in religious education.

